575 641 sport and defence organizations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; and the most active and politically conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to strengthen and develop the socialist system and is the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both public and state.

[694] Art. 102. Citizens of the Belorussian SSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator.

Art. 103. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

Art. 104. The Belorussian SSR affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for their scientific activities, or for their struggle for national liberation.

Art. 105. It is the duty of every citizen of the Belorussian SSR to abide by the Constitution of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

[421] [685] Art. 106. It is the duty of every citizen of the Belorussian SSR to safeguard and strengthen public socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 107. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the armed forces of the USSR is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Belorussian SSR.

[687] Art. 108. To defend the fatherland is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Belorussian SSR. Treason to the country -- violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage -- is punishable with all severity of law as the most heinous of crimes.

Chapter IX. The Electoral System

666 Art. 109. Members of all Soviets of Working People's Deputies -- of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the regional, district, city, settlement and rural Soviets of Working People's Deputies -- are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot.

Art. 110. Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the Belorussian SSR who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, educational and residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies and to be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

[66] [64] Every citizen of the Belorussian SSR who has reached the age of 21, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, educational and residential qualification, social origin, property status or past activities, has the right to be elected as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 111. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

[52] Art. 112. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Art. 113. Citizens serving in the armed forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 114. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, from rural and city Soviets of Working People's Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, inclusive, are elected by the citizens by direct vote.

Art. 115. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

Art. 116. Candidates for election are nominated according to electoral areas.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, youth organizations and cultural societies.

Art. 117. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies, and he is liable to be recalled at any time upon a decision of a majority of the electors in the manner established by law.

Art. 118. Elections of deputies to Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Belorussian SSR are held by election districts on the following basis:

in elections to regional Soviets - one deputy for every 10,000 to 15,000 of the population, depending upon its size;

in elections to district Soviets - one deputy for every 1,000 of the population; in a district whose population does not exceed 25,000, twenty-five deputies are elected, and in a district whose population exceeds 60,000, not more than sixty deputies are elected;

in elections to city Soviets or city district Soviets - one deputy for every 250 to 1,000 of the population, depending upon its size; in a city or city district whose population does not exceed 12,000, thirty-five deputies are elected;

in elections to village or settlement Soviets - one deputy for every 100 of the population; in a village or settlement whose population does not exceed 1,000, nine deputies are elected, and where the population exceeds 2,500, not more than twenty-five deputies.

The basis of representation for each regional, district, city, village and settlement Soviet of Working People's Deputies is fixed in the Ordinance Concerning Elections to Regional, District, City, Village and Settlement Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Belorussian SSR, within the range of the bases of representation indicated in the present article.